

Why Do You Call Me Lord?

CHIP BROGDEN

Reign Storm Publishing
Mount Vernon, Texas

Why Do You Call Me Lord?

Copyright ©2003 by Chip Brogden

<http://www.watchman.net>

Printed in the United States of America. All rights reserved under International Copyright Law. Contents may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the express written consent of the author.

*To Jesus:
for choosing me before I chose Him.*

*To "Gigi":
for taking me to Sunday School
where I learned what I had been chosen for.*

*To Karla:
for patiently enduring everything
and choosing to stay with me through it all.*

*To Beth and Brittney:
for patiently enduring just as much
and not having a choice.*

*After three days they
found Jesus in the temple,
sitting in the midst of
the religious lawyers,
hearing them, and*

asking them questions.

*And all that heard Him
were astonished at His
understanding and
answers.*

Luke 2:46,47

Introduction

History itself is divided between the things that happened before His birth and the things that happened after His birth. Most of His childhood is practically unknown to us; but we do know that approximately two thousand years ago, in the land of Palestine, a Man named Jesus began to publicly teach and proclaim the Kingdom of God.

He was thirty years old when He began His ministry. He was thirty-three years old when they killed Him.

For three and a half years He traveled the countryside, performed many miracles, taught

the people, comforted the sick and the poor, confronted the hypocrisy of the religious system, and trained a dozen ordinary men to help take His simple message to the ends of the earth.

To most of the religious leaders, Jesus was a deceiver, a demon-possessed magician, a drunkard, a glutton, and a "friend of sinners". To the rest of the world He was simply Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph the carpenter.

But a certain handful of people saw in Him something more than a simple carpenter's son. These people, who eventually came to be known as Christians, called Him Savior, Lord, and *the Christ*, the Son of the Living God.

For three years the tensions built up between the religious politicians and the controversial young prophet from Nazareth. Eventually the inevitable happened. In less than twenty-four hours, Jesus was betrayed, arrested, tried, sentenced to death, executed by crucifixion, and placed in a tomb.

Usually, that would have been the end of the story - a good man dying a senseless death. But then, the Christians claimed, *Jesus came back to life again!* He appeared to the believers numerous times, assured them that He was alive, sent them on their mission, and ascended up into heaven, promising to return again.

The revolution had begun.

The first Christians wrote down the incredible things Jesus said. They recorded the unbelievable things He did. Eventually their writings and letters were collected together into a book that we call the New Testament.

Those very same writings were discovered two thousand years later by a little boy. That's when another revolution began - on a much smaller scale, no doubt, but a revolution nonetheless. Because that little boy became a disciple of Jesus. He, too, began to write down the things that he had seen and heard. When he grew up, he wrote the book you are holding in your hands right now.

* * * *

Jesus asked a lot of questions. His questions are sometimes humorous, sometimes self-evident, sometimes offensive, sometimes controversial. At the same time, His questions are always honest, always powerful, always life-changing. Almost all of them appear in this little book, arranged for devotional study.

My study of the questions Jesus asked reveals one supreme truth: He never asks a question He doesn't already know the answer to. He only asks us to see if *we* know the answer. He uses questions to draw us out, to stretch us, to get us to think, to get us to pray. Our response, or lack of response, shows us exactly where we are, how much we've learned, and how much we still don't know.

To get the most out of this book, may I suggest a simple devotional exercise:

1. Find a quiet place of prayer or reflection where you will not be disturbed.
2. Read one question at the time and think about how it applies to *you* - your situation, your circumstances, your need. The commentary is only a guide; don't let it distract you from thinking for yourself.
3. Answer each question. Either pray it out loud to the Lord in prayer, or write it down in a special notebook.

At first glance, some of the questions Jesus asked may seem to have little practical application to you. Others will leap from the page and cut you to the heart (in fact, this book was written because of the question Jesus asked me on page 59). With time and patience you will soon discover something wonderful in every question.

I know the Lord a little better having written this book. My prayer is that you will know Him a little better having read it.

*Chip Brogden
Louisburg, N.C.
November 18, 2003*

I am He that lives...

Why were you
looking for Me? Don't
you know that I must
be about My Father's
business?

Luke 2:49

Jesus was missing! For three days His parents searched for Him. Was He hiding Himself? Did He run away? Where could He be? What happened to Him?

Even at such a young age, Jesus knew Who He was. He knew where He was supposed to be. He knew precisely what He was supposed to be doing. God, disguised as a twelve-year-old boy, was teaching people in the Temple. "So why are you looking for Me? Don't you know I'm right where I belong, doing exactly what I was sent to earth to do?"

Jesus is usually not where you expect Him to be, and He is frequently found in places you don't think to look.

I have spoken to you of
earthly things and you
do not believe; how
then will you believe if
I speak to you of
heavenly things?

John 3:12

Nicodemus was a religious teacher and one of the prominent Jewish leaders of his day. He came to see Jesus at night, apparently afraid that someone might see him.

Nicodemus was probably expecting to receive some deep spiritual truth or profound revelation. So when Jesus began talking about birthing babies and watching the wind blow, Nicodemus just didn't get it. Jesus said, "If you can't hear God speaking through the ordinary, mundane, natural, earthly things, how can He speak to you concerning heavenly things?"

According to Jesus, you need more than just a new way of thinking - you need a new way of *living*. You must be born *again*.

Do you want to be
made whole?

John 5:6

There is a difference between receiving a *healing* and being made *whole*. The healing is a thing, an outward work. But being made whole is an inward work. It involves spirit, and soul, and body.

There is a difference between salvation and a Savior; between deliverance and a Deliverer; between healing and a Healer; between redemption and a Redeemer. The first is a "thing", the second is a Person.

Do you only want the things that Jesus can give you, or do you want Jesus Himself? Everyone who is healed will eventually die; but the one who is made whole lives forever.

How can you believe
if you accept praise
from one another, and
make no effort to
obtain the praise that
comes from God?

John 5:44

Every Christian, coming to the end of their earthly life, wants to hear the Lord say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Good, and *faithful*.

Jesus says that no one can be faithful if they try to serve two masters at the same time. Following Jesus often brings criticism from others. When this happens we have to make a decision. Whose opinion will we be influenced by? The fear of man, the desire for appreciation, or the desire for reward will cause us to stumble.

Are you a man-pleaser, or a God-pleaser? In the end, what people think about you really doesn't matter. Only what He thinks.

If you don't believe
what Moses wrote,
how are you going to
believe what I say?

John 5:47

The Pharisees knew the Scriptures! They were experts in interpreting and teaching the letter of the Law. They boasted that they were "disciples of Moses". Jesus said if that were really the case then they would believe Him, because Moses wrote about Him.

Jesus said they searched the Scriptures looking for Life, yet they would not come to *Him* for Life! They made the Scriptures into a god, and didn't recognize God Himself standing right there in front of them.

Is the Bible important? Absolutely! But if you study the Bible like a Pharisee then you won't see Jesus in it, and that defeats the whole purpose.

If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a man than a sheep?

Matthew 12:11,12

The Hebrews had no day of rest when they were slaves in Egypt. Every day was a work day. As a free nation, God commanded them to take one day off per week so they could rest, worship, and spend time with their families. This weekly holiday was called "the Sabbath". It was intended to be a blessing!

Religious people (then and now) seem to have an incredible knack for turning a blessing into a bondage. Fear, instead of faith, becomes the driving force. Jesus repudiated that way of thinking, and they hated Him because of it.

Have you fallen into a religious pit of legalism? If so, will you let the Good Shepherd take hold of you and lift you out?

Salt is good: but if
the salt loses its flavor,
how can it be made
salty again?

Luke 14:34

Jesus answered His own question: *"If the salt loses its flavor, it is good for nothing, but must be thrown out!"*

When you become a Christian, God does not immediately take you to heaven. Why? Because He says you are the "salt of the earth." Your presence in the world as salt means three things. First, your presence should make others thirsty for Jesus. Second, your presence should bring a godly flavor to an otherwise tasteless society. Third, your presence acts as a preservative, keeping the world from spoiling and becoming totally rotten.

If the salt loses its saltiness, it serves no purpose. God has no Plan B. You're it.

If you only love those
who love you, what
reward will you get?
Don't the tax collectors
do at least that much?
And if you only greet
your brothers, what are
you doing more than
others? Don't pagans
do at least that much?

Matthew 5:46,47

I once attended a class that was supposed to teach us how to be friendly towards visitors. What does it say about our spiritual life when we have to teach Christians how to be polite to strangers and make them feel welcome when they come to church?

Jesus is clearly not impressed with our ability to be kind to people who are kind to us. It's easy to be nice to others when we expect to get something back from them in return. There's nothing extraordinary about that.

But when you give of yourself, with no strings attached, then you're truly walking in the realm of the miraculous.

Aren't five sparrows
sold for two pennies,
and yet your heavenly
Father feeds them?
Aren't you a lot more
valuable than many
sparrows?

Luke 12:6; Matthew 6:26

One of my favorite songs proclaims the faithfulness of God to watch over and care for His people:

*I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free!
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me!*

When you're tempted to doubt the Lord's provision, Jesus said to remember that the birds of the air never worry about finding enough food to eat.

Jesus said that God sends His sun to shine and His rain to fall on the good and bad alike, whether they acknowledge Him or not.

Which of you, by
worrying, can add a
single inch to his
height? Since worrying
cannot accomplish
this very little thing,
why be concerned
about the rest?

Luke 12:25,26

Children ask a lot of questions. Many of them start with "why" or "how".

I had a teacher in school who would frequently respond to my childish inquiries by saying, "Don't worry about it." It was his way of dismissing me and my aggravating questions. It was frustrating, but I had to learn how to wait and let things take their course.

Ironically, it takes more energy to worry and fret than it does to simply let go of our anxiety and just trust God. Worry does nothing but sap your strength and play havoc with your emotions. Jesus said faith can move mountains, but worry can't accomplish the simplest of tasks.

Why worry about
clothes? If God so
clothes the grass of the
field, which is here
today and tomorrow is
thrown into the fire,
won't He much more
clothe you, O you of
little faith?

Matthew 6:28, 30

No matter how many times we're told not to judge a book by its cover, we still spend a great deal of time trying to impress one another with our outward appearance.

Would Jesus wear a \$500 suit? Would He insist on name-brand designer clothing? Probably not. Jesus taught us that from a Kingdom perspective, what a person looks like on the outside has nothing to do with what they really are on the inside.

If you want to eliminate a lot of needless stress from your life, stop worrying about how you look to others and what everyone else thinks. Be modest, clean, and neat. Wear what God gives you to wear, and you'll look fine.

How can the blind
lead the blind?
Won't they both fall
into a ditch?

Luke 6:39

Blind leaders are everywhere. But did you know blind followers outnumber blind leaders? In fact, blind leadership would be eliminated overnight if their blind followers would have their eyes opened. No one with a good pair of eyes follows a blind man.

Unquestioned obedience to a spiritual head or religious authority who leads you astray is just as bad as leading people astray yourself. Everyone falls into a ditch.

Jesus never tells us to expect people to blindly submit to us, nor does He tell us to blindly submit to anyone else but Him. So whether you consider yourself to be a leader or a follower, you'd better keep your eyes open!

Why do you look for
the speck of dust in
your brother's eye and
ignore the log in your
own eye? How can
you say, "Let me take
that speck out of your
eye" when you can't
even see the log
in your own?

Matthew 7:3,4

As I travel I keep a mental collection of what I call the world's worst church signs. "Where do you want to spend eternity, smoking or non-smoking?" probably wins the prize.

A close runner-up is a sign I saw the other day: "Has YOUR church compromised?" I could only shake my head in disbelief. By calling attention to the *possibility* of compromise in another congregation, this church held themselves up as the example others should follow. But what an example!

Jesus calls it hypocrisy. When you start thinking the problem is *out there*, then *that thought* is the problem.

If your son asks for bread, will you give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will you give him a snake? If you know how to give good things to your children, won't your Heavenly Father give good things to you?

Matthew 7:9-11

The Father loves it when we ask Him for help. He never gets tired of us coming to Him. Jesus encourages us to keep on asking, seeking, and knocking. The answers will come, and they will be *good*.

That doesn't mean we'll get every single thing we ask for! If I gave my children candy every time they asked for it, what kind of father would I be? Sometimes God has to say no. When He does, it's only because He has something better in store for us.

So Jesus says to go ahead and ask, because when you ask, you'll receive *something*. It may not be what you want, but it will be exactly what you need.

Does anyone pick
grapes from thorn
bushes, or figs from
thistles?

Matthew 7:16

Abraham Lincoln once asked his cabinet officials, "If we call a tail a leg, how many legs does a sheep have?"

His advisors replied, "If we call a tail a leg, then a sheep has five legs."

"No," Lincoln said. "A sheep has four legs. *Calling* a tail a leg doesn't *make* it so."

Jesus said you could recognize a true or a false prophet by the fruit they bring forth. *Calling* a thorn bush a fruit tree doesn't *make* it so. Are you getting thorns from your "fruit tree"? Sometimes discernment is nothing more than keeping your eyes open and using a little bit of common sense.

Why do you call Me
"Lord, Lord" when you
don't do what I say?

Luke 6:46

One of the greatest delusions today is the idea that you can accept Jesus as Savior without accepting Him as Lord. In other words, you can be assured of going to heaven when you die without having to actually live like a disciple of Jesus here and now.

Confessing Jesus as the *Lord* of your life means you are no longer free to live any way you please and "do your own thing". If you refuse Him as Lord *now*, you cannot claim Him as Savior *then*.

"Why do you call Me *Lord* if you aren't going to do what I say?" Either He is Lord *of* all, or He's not Lord *at* all.

Who is my mother?
And who are my
brothers?

Mark 3:33

Jesus had a keen sense of responsibility. As the oldest son, He was in charge of providing for His family when Joseph passed away.

But even His own brothers didn't believe in Him. So when His mother and brothers came for a visit, He made it clear to all that His true mother, brothers, and sisters were those who did the will of His Father. He emphasized the spiritual relationship, not the earthly one.

How wonderful that even when your family relationships are strained, you can still have God for a Father, Jesus for an Older Brother, and the household of God as your extended family.

Who appointed Me to
be a judge or an arbiter
between you two?

Luke 12:14

Often we go to the Lord and ask Him to intervene in our disputes. I call this "get 'em straight" praying. We want the Lord to fix our family members, our boss, our co-workers, our pastor, the people at church, or our neighbors.

We want God to do something about that *other* person. In this instance Jesus did do something - but He did not step in and settle the dispute. He merely exposed a selfish heart and sent a strong warning about covetousness.

You must learn that you have no control over what other people think, say, and do. You're only responsible for what *you* think, say, and do. And that's where Jesus will begin to change things - not in *them*, but in *you*.

Do you think
that I have come to
bring peace on the
earth?

Luke 12:51

A lot of people *think* Jesus was passive and quiet, never causing a disturbance, eager to please, and easy to get along with. If that was the case, why did they hate Him so much, and why did they eventually have Him crucified? The problem, He says, is "You think I'm bringing *peace*, but I'm bringing *division*."

You see, the question is not what we *think* Jesus is supposed to be, but who He actually *is*.

Jesus will not change Who He is in order to accommodate your thinking; instead, He will change your thinking to accommodate Who He is. The purpose of revelation is not to substantiate your illusions, but to eliminate them.

You hypocrites,
you can discern the
face of the sky and the
earth, but why can't
you discern the
signs of the times?
And why don't you
judge for yourselves
what is right?

Luke 12:56,57

Discernment is the ability to see things as God sees them and distinguish between good and evil. Discernment isn't a gift, it's a set of spiritual senses that can be strengthened through exercise or weakened through neglect. The more you use it, the better it gets.

When we lack discernment, we're unable to judge *for ourselves* what is right and wrong. So we're forced to rely on what other people think, on what our previous experience tells us, or what "looks" right. We make a decision and hope it's the right one. Sometimes it is - and sometimes it isn't.

Can you judge for *yourself* what is right? If not, it's time to start exercising your senses.

Doesn't each one of
you untie his ox or
donkey and lead it out
to give it water?

Then shouldn't this
woman, a daughter of
Abraham, whom satan
has bound for eighteen
years, be set free from
what bound her?

Luke 13:15,16

In most cases Jesus rebukes the demon and then sets the captive free. In this case, He sets the captive free and then rebukes the demon. Why?

I submit to you that though the woman was indeed bound by satan for eighteen years, the spirit that kept her bound was not living in *her*, but was living in the religious ruler who wanted to keep her in her place.

"Ought not this woman be loosed?" To Jesus, anything less was unacceptable. Eighteen years of bondage is long enough! Loose her, and let her go free! Whether you're bound by sin, or bound by religion, Jesus can set you free from either one, or from both.

Would anyone
light a candle and then
put it under a bowl, or
hide it under a bed?

Mark 4:21

Jesus answers His own question: of *course not!* When someone lights a lamp, they put it on a lamp stand so it will give light to the whole house. Whoever heard of turning on a lamp and then covering it up?

But we do it all the time. "Who am I? What do I have to offer? I'm just a nobody. I have nothing to share. Let someone else do it! I'm so unworthy. I've tried before and failed. There's nothing I can do."

Nonsense. The Bible says God has given light to everyone born into this world, whether they are Christians or not. He has a purpose for you. He created you to be a light, so come to Him and *let* your light shine.

Where is your faith?

Luke 8:25

What is faith? Is it a spiritual force? Is it a creative power? Is it a special gift from God, or something we have to develop on our own?

According to the Bible, faith is simply *believing* that God is Who He says He is, and *trusting* that He will do what He says He will do. When Jesus says, "Where is your faith?" He's saying, "Don't you trust Me?"

I'm convinced that we have plenty of faith. The problem is we have faith in all the wrong things. Where is *your* faith? In yourself? In other people? Can you only trust what you see, hear, and experience, or will you dare to trust Someone you can't see? Believing the impossible makes the impossible *possible*.

Why are you
so afraid? Do you
still have no faith?

Matthew 8:26

The storm was raging and the disciples were in a panic. "Wake up and save us, Lord! We're about to die!" Oh, really? With Jesus right there in the boat? I don't think so!

Jesus consistently calls His disciples to live a life with Him that is free from worry, fear, and doubt. On earth He feared nothing and He slept soundly. We find Him speaking words of peace, comfort, and faith. "Why are you so afraid? Don't you trust Me?"

Faith won't stop the storms from coming. You'll still have to sail through an occasional tempest, but you won't be afraid of them anymore. Instead, you'll see them as fresh opportunities for letting *go* and letting *God*.

Why do you disobey
the commandment of
God for the sake of
your tradition?

Matthew 15:3

It doesn't matter how well intentioned, meaningful, or helpful the tradition is. If it is not according to Christ, if it hinders us from knowing Him, then it is worthless insofar as God's Kingdom is concerned and must be discarded.

The religious traditions of men can be the greatest distraction from a simple, abiding relationship with Christ. Tradition dictates most of what is said and done in our churches - but that doesn't mean our tradition is right.

Given a choice between following tradition and following the Lord, many people choose tradition. Why do you suppose that is? More importantly, will you be the exception?

Who touched Me?

Luke 8:45

Jesus was being crushed by the crowd, all of them pressing in upon Him with their needs, their wants, their desires. They wanted to be touched by Him and healed of their diseases.

Many people were pressing in upon Him, but only one of them touched Him with a purpose, with focused intention, with *faith*. Immediately Jesus acknowledged *that* kind of touch. "I felt power go out from Me!"

Remember that all power in heaven and earth belongs to Him. When you reach out in faith, doubting nothing, He will single you out of the crowd, and He will respond to your slightest touch.

Why all this
commotion and
wailing?

Mark 5:39

A little girl was dying and the whole neighborhood was in despair. The family had sent for Jesus, but He couldn't get there fast enough. Then the news came: "The child has died. There's no need to trouble the Master."

But Jesus came anyway. And when He arrived, He asked, "Why all this commotion? Why are you crying? She isn't dead, she's only asleep." And He brought her back to life again.

For the Christian, death is not the end of life, but the beginning. The ones who know Jesus can rejoice while the rest of the world weeps. Even when Jesus appears to be too late, He is always right on time. Death isn't a barrier to Him.

Do you believe that I
am able to do this?

Matthew 9:28

We know about the miracles Jesus did. The Bible tells us He healed the sick, raised the dead, cast out demons, walked on water, fed thousands of people with a few loaves of bread, and did many other signs and wonders.

What about the miracles that He *did not* do? From studying the life of Jesus we know that there was much more He could have done. But the Bible says that in some places Jesus did no mighty works *because of their unbelief*.

Are you limiting God through unbelief, doubt, or fear? Do *you* believe He is able? If so, you have nothing to lose, and everything to gain, by placing your confidence in Him.

Where can we
buy bread for these
people to eat?

John 6:5

The Bible says He only asked this question to test their faith. He already knew what He was going to do. But did His disciples have enough faith to ask Him?

No. They focused on their *lack* instead of their *Lord*. Today's disciples would have gone on television, collected millions of dollars, paid themselves a salary, given everyone a crust of bread, and congratulated themselves on their ability to feed the poor.

There's nothing miraculous about raising money. Anyone can do that. But when you go to Jesus with nothing and let Him do a miracle, He gets the glory, the people are filled, and you get to keep the leftovers.

O you of little faith,
why did you doubt?

Matthew 14:31

Peter did the impossible! *He walked on the water with Jesus!* But then he noticed the howling wind and the crashing waves. Fear gripped his heart, and as he began to sink, he cried out:

"Lord save me!"

Immediately Jesus reached out for Peter and caught him. "You have such little faith! Why don't you trust Me?"

My friend, even someone with *little* faith can walk on the water if they have enough sense to ignore the weather and keep their eyes on Jesus. If you do get into trouble, don't worry - He's not going to let you drown.

Does this offend you?

John 6:61

When Jesus speaks it's interesting to observe the many different responses to what He has to say. To some people, His words are simple truth. To others, His words are simply offensive. Same words, different reactions.

Even some of His disciples had a hard time understanding what He meant. Jesus doesn't always explain Himself. He just says what needs to be said and lets you wrestle with it.

If Jesus offends you, the problem is not with Him - it's with *you*. You can choose to be offended by Him, or you can choose to swallow your pride and come to a greater understanding of truth. Those are the only two options you have. Jesus never apologizes.

Will you also go away?

John 6:67

Today's preacher tries to attract and keep the biggest crowd possible. Jesus sought to thin out the crowd and eliminate those who weren't truly interested in discipleship.

The Bible says that in Capernaum many of Jesus' disciples became offended, went back, and no longer walked with Him. Notice that Jesus did not go running after them, begging them to reconsider. He merely turned to His original twelve disciples and asked, "What about you? Do you want to leave also?"

Jesus is *simple*, but He isn't *easy*. An easy Gospel begets easy disciples. If that's the Gospel you responded to, it isn't the Gospel according to Jesus.

How many
loaves do you have?

Mark 8:5

To understand the significance of this question, it is important to see that Jesus never asks, "How many loaves do you *need*?" That would have opened the disciples up to become obsessed with their lack.

The truth is, they didn't know what they needed anyway. We don't really know what we need either. But if we will let go and give God what little we *have*, He can multiply it into what we *need*.

So how many loaves do you have? Are you willing to give them to Jesus? If you will come to Him and give Him what you have, no matter how insignificant it seems, He will multiply it many times over again.

Why do these people
seek after a sign?

Mark 8:12

"If only God would give me some kind of *proof*, some irrefutable *sign* that He exists, then I would believe Him!" Would you really?

Whenever someone came to Jesus demanding that He give them a sign, He refused. "Why do you seek a sign? How many more proofs do you need?" Jesus always responds to the needy; He never reacts to the critics.

Even when He *did* open the eyes of the blind, make the lame to walk, cleanse the lepers, and raise the dead, most of the people didn't believe what they were seeing and hearing anyway. So are you seeking a *sign*, or are you seeking *Him*?

Why are you talking
about having no bread?

Mark 8:17

When we skip a few meals in order to fast and pray we quickly realize just how much our lives are controlled by *food*. Consider all the time spent preparing a grocery list, shopping for food, preparing meals, eating them, and cleaning up the mess we made. In just a few hours we get hungry again, and the process repeats itself.

The disciples weren't fasting; they just forgot to bring food with them on their trip. And immediately they began to fret.

When you focus on what you *don't* have then you can't truly appreciate what you *do* have. Just like money, food can be an excellent servant, but a poor master.

Do you still not see or understand? Why have you hardened your heart? Do you have eyes, but fail to see? Do you have ears, but fail to hear?

Mark 8:17,18

Hundreds of years earlier, Isaiah the prophet spoke about people who had eyes and ears but could not see or hear anything God tried to teach them.

Even when Jesus took His disciples aside and explained things to them they still had a difficult time understanding. Why? Not because the teaching was complicated. If anything, it was so simple it went right over their heads. But their hearts were hardened.

Jesus says closed eyes and ears are symptoms of a closed heart. So if you're having trouble seeing and hearing, don't have your eyes and ears checked - just have your heart examined.

Don't you remember
when I broke the five
loaves for the five
thousand, how many
basketfuls were
leftover? And when I
broke the seven loaves
for the four thousand,
how many basketfuls
were leftover?

Mark 8:19,20

When you're going through a crisis of faith, it's not easy to remember the faithfulness of the Lord. How quickly we forget the previous victories and the former blessings.

Jesus wants us to *remember*. Keeping a spiritual journal or prayer diary is a good way to remember just how far the Lord has brought us and just how much He has done for us. Our circumstances may change, but He never changes! He is always faithful.

Remember the loaves and do the math, Jesus says. When you do, you will see this simple truth: the fewer loaves you start out with, the more people I can feed. My Power is strongest when you are at your weakest.

What did you go
out to see? A prophet?

Luke 7:26

What a tragedy that people feel like they have to run all over the world to find some "anointed" man or woman of God to pray for them or give them a "word". Many times these "words" are nonsense. But it doesn't keep crowds of people from seeking them anyway.

The irony is every once in awhile you *do* encounter a true prophet of God with a genuine message from the Lord - someone like John the Baptist. And he isn't anything like you expected, so you go away, disappointed.

When you go out, what do you expect to see? You can see Him and hear Him right where you are, if you keep an open heart and an open mind.

Who do you
say that I am?

Matthew 16:15

It is the Ultimate Question. Jesus of Nazareth is, without a doubt, one of the most controversial figures in human history.

For some, Jesus is a good Man, a Teacher, a Prophet. For others, Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Some people believe one thing, some believe another. Everyone has an opinion. But the issue is not what everyone else thinks or says:

*"Who do **you** say that I am?"*

Each one of us must answer that question for ourselves. And your answer will determine your destiny - not only in this world, but also in the world to come.

What good is it for a man to gain the whole world but lose his own soul? What can a man give in exchange for his soul?

Matthew 16:26

I read about a self-employed businessman who announced his intention to make a million dollars over the next twelve months. To accomplish this goal he went on the road for weeks at a time, calling on prospects all over the country and putting deals together.

A year later he had made his million dollars. In the meantime his children had become hooked on drugs and his wife had filed for divorce. Making the million dollars cost him a lot more than it was worth.

Compare that sad example to missionary martyr Jim Elliot's philosophy: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

What were you
arguing about?

Mark 9:33

One day Jesus greeted His disciples with a probing question. "What were you arguing about on the way in?" They were too ashamed to answer Him, because they had been arguing about who among them would be the greatest.

Disciples of Jesus spend too much time arguing over things that don't really matter one way or the other. By trying to prove our "rightness", we only end up proving our pride and jealousy.

If you're a disciple, try talking it over with your Teacher first. Get everyone involved to pray along with you. If it's not important enough to pray about then it's probably not important enough to argue about.

O faithless and
perverse generation,
how long must I stay
with you? How long
must I put up with
you?

Matthew 17:17

A desperate father took his son to Jesus' disciples to be delivered from a demon. Alas, the disciples could not help the boy. In frustration the man went directly to Jesus.

I believe Jesus is speaking to His disciples here. "After all you've seen, and you still don't believe! How long do I have to stay with you? What is it going to take for you to trust Me?" And He immediately healed the boy.

Jesus said anyone who believes in Him will do the works that He did, and even greater works. So why can't we do them? "Because of your unbelief. Even a little bit of trust in Me can move mountains. Nothing is impossible to the one who trusts Me completely!"

What do you think?

If a man owns a
hundred sheep and
one wanders away,
will he not leave the
ninety-nine and go
look for the one that
went astray?

Matthew 18:12

When I was a pastor I used to think of the people in our church as "my sheep". What a revelation it was to discover that the sheep belonged to Jesus, not to me. He only wanted me to help take care of them for a little while.

Jesus said to Peter, "If you love Me, feed My sheep and take care of My lambs." He did not give the sheep and the lambs to Peter.

Undershepherds who serve the Chief Shepherd are primarily called to care for the ninety-nine already gathered. But Jesus said, "I have other sheep that are missing, and I must bring them in also." If you're one of those wandering sheep, just know it's only a matter of time before Jesus brings you home again.

Are you
angry with Me?

John 7:23

The religious leaders were mad at Jesus because He apparently showed no respect for them, their titles, or their positions of influence. Instead, He exposed their hypocrisy. That's not what they expected the Messiah to do!

When God doesn't do what we want, or doesn't give us what we ask for, our feelings of anger could indicate a problem with our thinking. Perhaps our expectations are unrealistic. Maybe our idea of God needs to be adjusted.

Have you ever been angry with God? Are you still angry? Go to Him just as you are and work it out. You may learn something new about Him and find your anger melts away.

Where are
your accusers?
Is there no one left to
condemn you?

John 8:10

It's bad enough to be accused of something you know you did wrong. To be accused of something you had nothing to do with can be unbearable. And crowds can get ugly.

Regardless of whether you're guilty or innocent, it's usually best to exercise your right to "remain silent". Loudly protesting your innocence to a murderous mob only fuels more accusation. In situations like this, there's little you can do or say to make things better (I've learned this the hard way).

Eventually the storm will pass, and your accusers will walk away, leaving you alone with Jesus. *Which is exactly where you need to be.*

Can any of you
prove Me guilty of sin?
And if I am telling the
truth, why don't you
believe Me?

John 8:46

Most people, even those who don't consider themselves to be Christians, believe that Jesus was (at the very least) a "good man" Who always told the truth.

Every true disciple knows that Jesus is sinless and perfect in all His ways, thoughts, words, and deeds. He not only tells the truth, but He *is* the Truth. Do you believe this?

If so, then that puts you in an interesting position. If Jesus is perfect, and always tells the truth, why do you have such a hard time believing what He says? Why do you find it so difficult to obey Him? Either He's not being honest with you, or *you're* not being honest with Him. Which do you think it is?

Do you believe
in the Son of God?

John 9:35

A lot of people acknowledge God or some kind of Higher Power. In fact, most religions of the world believe in some kind of Supreme Being that created everything.

But *God* isn't the issue. The issue is the *Son of God*, Jesus Christ. Christianity, Judaism, and Islam all affirm a belief in God - and that's where the similarity ends. Christians are unique in their belief that Jesus Christ is not *just* a prophet or teacher. He is the Son of God.

Everything hinges on what you say about *Jesus*. If you believe in God that is a good beginning. But do you believe in the *Son of God*? "*This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him!*"

Were not all ten
cleansed? Where are
the other nine?

Luke 17:17

We offer many prayers to God and make many requests. It seems the majority of our prayer time is spent asking God to do something. Jesus said to ask so we can receive, so there's nothing wrong with asking.

But how much time do we spend actually thanking God for what He has *already* given us? Is He worthy of our thanksgiving simply on the basis of Who He is and what He has *already* done, even if He never answers another prayer?

Nine out of ten people fail to give God credit for the blessings they enjoy. Will you be the one person who remembers to say thank you?

Many good works
have I showed
you from My Father:
for which of
these good works
do you stone Me?

John 10:32

Even though Jesus did many good things and performed many miracles, opinion about Him was divided. Most of the people liked Him. But the religious leaders wanted to stone Him!

Isn't that usually the case? They wanted to kill Him - not because of the things He *did*, but because of the things He *said*. They couldn't argue against His good deeds, so they tried to find fault with the words He spoke.

If Jesus had only limited Himself to working miracles, they may have tolerated Him! But they couldn't handle His teachings. Unfortunately, you don't get to choose one or the other. With Jesus, it's all or nothing.

Is it lawful on the
Sabbath days to do
good, or to do evil? Is
it a day for saving life,
or destroying life?

Mark 3:4

Religion has a way of taking something intended to be a blessing and turning it into a legalistic burden. The Pharisees were masters at this. They had rules and regulations for micromanaging everyone and everything.

The Bible says that Jesus was angry at the hardness of their hearts. Imagine! They thought it was wrong to do *anything* on the Sabbath - even something *good*, like healing the sick! But is that really what God meant when He ordained a day of rest?

Jesus didn't think so. He showed us that God's commandments are not meant to restrict us, but are designed to liberate us, to free us from being slaves to our own twisted ideas.

If you want to build a tower, don't you sit down first and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to finish what you begin?

Luke 14:28

Several years ago a couple in our church wanted to do something nice for us, so they offered to cut our grass. At the time we had a large backyard - but they didn't know that!

Our friends started out well, but about halfway through they said they had to leave on an errand. They never came back to finish the yard. We ended up finishing it ourselves.

Many new disciples of Jesus start out the same way. They respond to an invitation, or pray a prayer, and start out with a lot of good intentions. But no one explains the cost to them, and they quit halfway through. It's never too late to start over, but one good finish is worth more than a thousand false starts.

If a woman
has ten pieces of silver
and loses one of them,
won't she light a
candle, sweep the
house and search
carefully until she
finds it?

Luke 15:8

God doesn't make junk! He knew each one of us before we were born, and He vested us with very special talents and gifts. No one else in the world has your unique combination of skills, life experiences, personality traits, and abilities.

Someone has said that your destiny is not your *decision*, it is your *discovery*. Many people have yet to discover how valuable they are to God. They're like a rare silver coin that somehow gets lost. But what rejoicing there is when the silver coin is finally discovered!

Are you that missing coin? If so, the Lord is seeking you out. He wants you to know that you're worth looking for.

If you have not been faithful with worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?

If you have not been faithful with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

Luke 16:11,12

Mother Teresa said, "I know God will not give me anything I cannot handle. I only wish He did not trust me so much."

The Kingdom of God is based on stewardship, not ownership. The truth is you don't actually own anything. Everything you have is on loan from God. It is a sacred trust. One day, you'll have to give it all back to Him and give an account for how you handled your stewardship.

What you do here on earth (or what you fail to do) is important because it affects your position in the Kingdom of God. If you aren't faithful with earthly things, why would God entrust you with heavenly things?

When the Son of Man
returns, will He find
faith in the earth?

Luke 18:8

Before his tragic death in a plane crash, Keith Green wrote a song that references this very passage of Scripture. With characteristic passion, Keith pounds on the piano and sings:

*"When the Son of Man returns
Will He find faith on the earth?"
Well I hope so!
I wanna be found ready!*

The humanity of Jesus is clearly seen in His obvious frustration that people, even His closest disciples, had a hard time believing Him. Eventually they all believed. But what about now? I hear a challenge in this question! "Will I find faith in *you* when I return?" *Well I hope so!*

Did I not tell you that if
you believe, you will
see the glory of God?

John 11:40

"Take away the stone," Jesus had said. But by this time, the body of Lazarus was beginning to smell. He had been in the tomb for four days. Martha recounted all the gory details for Him, saying in essence that it was too late for Jesus to do anything now.

Yes, it was a bad situation. Everyone was weeping and crying. Even Jesus wept! But the Lord wants to know, "Do you believe Me, Martha? If you will trust Me, even when things make no sense, when everything seems to be lost, you will see God's glory shine through the darkest of nights."

We want to see and *then* believe. Jesus says believe first, and *then* you will see.

Why do you
call Me good?

Matthew 19:17

Why do bad things happen to good people? Why does evil exist in the world? If God is good, why doesn't He do something about poverty, disease, and global warming?

The goodness of God is not called into question when things are going well. I've never heard anyone argue with God that they don't deserve to be healthy, earn a decent living, or have a nice house. He seldom gets credit for the good things, but He almost always gets blamed for the bad things.

Why do you call Me good? Is it because of what I can do for you, or it is because of Who I am? And will you still call Me good when life doesn't go as you expected?

What do you want
Me to do for you?

Mark 10:36

James and John came to Jesus with what I call a "loaded prayer". They were essentially saying, "Lord, we're going to ask You for something, and we want You to agree ahead of time that You will give us whatever we ask You for!"

Jesus very wisely asked, "What [exactly!] do you want Me to do for you?"

Have you ever tried to get the Lord to commit Himself to your way, your idea, your thought, your plan? You must come to Him with an open heart and allow Him to fill you with His ways, His ideas, His thoughts, and His plans. Prayer does not change God; prayer changes *us*.

Are you willing to
drink the cup that I
must drink? And are
you willing to be
baptized with the
baptism I must be
baptized with?

Matthew 20:22

Talk of a "kingdom" meant visions of grandeur for James and John. Remember, these are the two brothers who wanted to call down fire from heaven to consume those who didn't welcome them! Can you imagine what would happen if they had thrones to sit on?

Jesus didn't grant their request, but He didn't deny it, either. He simply asked them if they were willing to pay the price for getting what they wanted.

Scripture makes it clear: if you suffer with Him, you will reign with Him. Jesus said if they hated Me then they will hate you also. There is no crown without a cross. Are you willing?

You blind fools, which
is more important: the
gold, or the temple that
makes the gold sacred?

Which is more
important: the gift, or
the altar than makes
the gift sacred?

Matthew 23:17,19

The Bible says that the Pharisees loved money, and when Jesus said you couldn't serve God and serve money at the same time, they laughed and ridiculed Him.

Since they loved money, the Pharisees cared more about the Temple offerings than the Temple. So Jesus explains that the purpose for which the money is given is more important than the money itself.

Today we have no Temple to support, but there are a number of churches and ministries asking for your financial support. Just remember that your gift is made holy when the purpose you're supporting is holy. Otherwise you're just throwing your money away.

You snakes, you
generation of serpents,
how can you escape
the damnation of hell?

Matthew 23:33

The meaning of this question must be interpreted in the context of the entire passage. When you read everything Jesus said in this chapter you find that He is *not* speaking to unbelievers. He is *not* preaching to sinners.

Jesus sends His strongest hell-fire-and-brimstone warning, not to "the lost", but to the self-righteous religious leaders of His time - the scribes and Pharisees. In this chapter He calls them sons of hell, blind guides, fools, hypocrites, whitewashed tombs, and snakes!

The Lord had no problem eating with "sinners" and spending time with them, but He told hypocrites they were going to hell. Is it any wonder that they wanted Him dead?

Who is greater: the one
who sits at the table, or
the one who serves?

Luke 22:27

In the next sentence, Jesus says the one who sits at the table is greater than the one who serves - according to the way *man* sees things. But that isn't the way *God* sees it!

A *minister* is supposed to be someone who meets the needs of others, someone who *serves*. So why do so many "ministers" expect others to serve them *because* of their ministry, instead of serving others *with* their ministry?

"It must not be that way among you," Jesus warns. The greatest ones in His Kingdom are serving others, not being served. Perhaps the best thing about being a servant in the Kingdom of God is there's no competition for the lowest place.

Do you understand
what I have done
for you?

John 13:12

Foot washing, to the Jews, was about as much fun as taking out the trash is to us. It was a necessary duty but not very enjoyable. Usually a household servant or slave would dutifully perform the task.

But the disciples were too poor to hire a servant, and they were too proud to do it themselves. So Jesus got up, wrapped Himself in a towel, grabbed a bowl of water, and began to wash the feet of His own disciples.

Do you understand what He has done for *you*? Through His death on the cross, He became your servant - not to wash you on the *outside*, but to wash you on the *inside*.

When I sent you out
without purse, bag, or
shoes, did you lack
anything?

Luke 22:35

A few thousand years ago, God spoke to a man named Abram and told him to leave his father's house and go to a new land.

"O.K. God, tell me more about this place you want me to move to," Abraham answered.

"Just start walking," God said, "And I'll let you know when you get there."

The disciples of Jesus had no credit cards, no map, not even a good pair of walking shoes. The only equipment they had was trust in the Lord's provision. *And they lacked nothing.*

You don't need as much as you think you need, only the courage to take the first step.

Have I been so
long time with you,
and yet you still don't
know Me?

John 14:9

Jesus called the first twelve disciples *to be with Him*. For three years they were inseparable. They followed Jesus everywhere He went, listened to His teachings, and watched Him do many miracles. He spoke to the crowds in parables, but when He was alone with His disciples, He explained everything to them, encouraging them to *believe*.

But even after being with Jesus for three years, they still didn't know Who He really was.

Jesus showed them how to *live*, and they didn't comprehend it. So now He would show them how to *die*.

*I am He that lives,
and was dead...*

Could you not watch
with Me one hour?

Matthew 26:40

Jesus was a Man of prayer. He would rise while it was still dark and seek out a lonely place to pray. He fasted and prayed in the desert for forty days. Sometimes He spent the entire night in prayer to God.

But on that night, His last night on earth, Jesus only asked His disciples to watch with Him for one hour. Just *sixty minutes*. Yet they couldn't keep their eyes open. So He prayed just like He always did - alone.

You may not consider yourself to be a "prayer warrior", but that's O.K. Jesus isn't asking a great thing of you. Only one hour. And when you're facing a cross, one hour can be the difference between success and failure.

Shall I not drink of the
cup that My Father has
given Me?

John 18:11

His whole reason and purpose for coming to earth was about to be fulfilled. Jesus had prepared for this moment His entire life. He knew what would happen, and He told His disciples so they would be prepared for it, too.

In the garden, the intensity of the moment nearly overwhelmed Him. He was in great anguish of spirit, soul, and body. He prayed for another way, if possible - but in the end He asked for God's Will, and not His own.

With that settled, nothing could stop Him from taking that cup and drinking it. The Father has given you a cup to drink also. Will you accept it, or refuse it? If you refuse, you may not get a second chance.

Do you not think that
I could call on my
Father, and He will
immediately send more
than twelve legions of
angels? But how then
would the Scriptures
be fulfilled?

Matthew 26:53,54

The disciples never could understand why Jesus had to die. Peter argued with the Lord about it. He even drew his sword there in the garden, determined to defend Jesus from being arrested.

But Jesus didn't need Peter to defend Him. With only a word to His Father, more than twelve thousand angels would be instantly dispatched from heaven to fight on His behalf. But He never asked for them. His only concern was, "How can I obey My Father and make sure the Scriptures are fulfilled?"

Even when you do ask for deliverance, God does not always take you *out* of your trial, but He does promise to take you *through* it.

Am I a criminal,
that you have come
after Me with swords
and clubs?

Luke 22:52

Earlier that week, the people of Jerusalem received Jesus with great celebration, waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord!" The Pharisees muttered that "the whole world" had gone after Him.

Now, only a few days later, some of these same people were coming after Jesus with swords and clubs, intending to arrest Him and turn Him over to the Romans to be crucified.

One should never underestimate the power of a religious mob. The ones singing "Hosanna!" today may very well be screaming "Crucify!" tomorrow.

Why are you
questioning Me?

John 18:21

Jesus was on trial. They accused Him of many things and they asked Him many questions. They couldn't prove any of the charges against Him, and everyone knew they only arrested Him out of jealousy. For the most part He remained silent.

But at the beginning of the trial, He asked, "Why are you questioning Me?" What right does man, the created, have to question God, the Creator?

Have you ever demanded answers from God, only to be met with silence? Or worse, you receive an answer in the form of a question: "Why are you questioning Me? Am I on trial? Are you going to be My accuser?"

If I have spoken evil,
prove it: but if I have
spoken the truth, why
do you hit Me?

John 18:23

The world rewards people who lie and punishes people who tell the truth. Religion follows suit, rewarding the ones who say exactly what the people *want* to hear, while persecuting the ones who say exactly what the people *need* to hear.

Why is this? Because a comfortable lie is often preferred to an uncomfortable truth. Few people can hear the truth, and fewer still can speak it.

The next time someone brings you a message you don't like, resist the urge to attack the messenger. When you arbitrarily reject someone who tells you the truth, you might be slapping Jesus across the face.

If they do such things
when the tree is green,
what will they do
when it is dry?

Luke 23:31

All the forces of darkness came against Him. Ultimately they were unsuccessful. But Jesus sure looked defeated, crumbling beneath the weight of a freshly cut wooden cross, taking those final steps toward Golgotha's hill.

Jesus does not sound very encouraging here when He says, in essence, "Don't weep for Me, weep for yourself, and for your children." Before sin runs its full course, He seems to say, things will get worse before they get better.

But right there, crushed beneath a tidal wave of evil, He prays, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing." Today, the tree is very dry and sin still abounds, but His grace abounds even more.

My God, My God, why
have You forsaken Me?

Matthew 27:46

This is the only recorded instance in which
Jesus ever questioned God.

*I am He that lives,
and was dead; and behold,
I am alive forevermore...*

Why are you
weeping? Who are
you looking for?

John 20:15

Mary was looking for the *body* of Jesus. She certainly was not expecting to find *Jesus Himself*, standing right there in front of her, full of life and power!

The last time she saw the Lord, He was battered and bloodied. She had seen His body wrapped in linen and anointed with burial spices. She was there when they laid His body in the tomb. So when Jesus appeared to her, she thought He was the gardener.

Who are *you* looking for? A dead body, or a Living Person? The gardener, the angel, or the Risen Lord? Don't let what you *expect* to see distract you from what's really *there*.

What were you
discussing together as
you walked along, and
why are you so sad?

Luke 24:17

Jesus really does *love* us. Because He loves us, He loves everything about us. When we are sad, or troubled, He truly is concerned.

I find it interesting that on the road to Emmaus Jesus didn't reveal His identity right away. They didn't realize that they were talking to the Lord. Everything was hidden from them. But once their eyes were opened, they understood everything.

I wonder how many times God speaks to us, but we don't know it's Him? How many times does He appear to us, but our troubled state of mind keeps us from seeing Him? Perhaps He isn't as far away as you think. Maybe He's speaking to you right now.

Did not the Christ
have to suffer these
things and then enter
into His glory?

Luke 24:26

The image of a suffering Messiah was too much for the Jews. They wanted their Savior to ride into town on a white horse, full of kingly majesty, power and glory. So they couldn't understand why Jesus kept talking about having to suffer and die.

Even Jesus had to suffer - *and then* enter into His glory. No pain, no gain.

Paul the apostle wrote that his highest goal was "to know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings." Since you will have tribulation in this life anyway, you might as well make the best possible use of it. Endure it patiently, and you can enter His glory in the midst of it.

Why are you troubled,
and why do doubts
arise in your mind?

Luke 24:38

The Bible says that weeping may endure all night, but joy comes in the morning.

They had witnessed the darkest day in the history of the human race, that terrible day when *Man* crucified *God*. Now, they were witnessing the greatest miracle in the history of all creation, the day when Jesus rose from the dead, proving that He is Savior, Lord, and God Incarnate. *He is not here, He is risen!*

After all that, the Scripture says they worshipped Him - yet some doubted! And Jesus is still saying to them, and to us, "After all this, you're still so anxious, still so afraid to trust Me, still so attached to the same old fears and doubts. Why?? Today is a new day!"

Do you love
Me more than these
other things?

John 21:15

Many things compete for our love, our devotion, our time, and our attention. But Jesus said only One Thing is needed. Every one of us must make a choice between Christ and the "many things".

If you ask most Christians whether or not they love the Lord, nearly all of them will say yes. But Jesus wants to know, "Do you love Me *more* than anything else? Am I the most important thing?"

Loving the Lord is a beginning, but He requires more than that. Not just any place will do for the King of Kings. Jesus wants the first place, the best place, the preeminent place in your heart. Does He have it?

Why are you
persecuting Me?

Acts 9:4

The Lord did not go to Saul and ask, "Why are you persecuting My people?" Instead, He asked, "Why are you persecuting *Me*?" In this, Jesus shows us that He is one with His people, for "when you have done it to the least of My brothers, you have done it to Me."

Saul was sincere, but he was sincerely deluded. He thought he was pleasing God by persecuting Christians! Blinded by his own religious sense of right and wrong, he had people killed and thrown into prison.

Saul had *religion*, and he used it to destroy others. But Jesus gave him a *relationship*, and that made all the difference. Religion, or relationship? The choice is yours.

*There are
many other things
which Jesus did, and if
they were all written down,
I suppose that even the world
itself could not contain
the books that should
be written.*

John 21:25

About The Author

Chip Brogden was born and raised in eastern North Carolina. He became a follower of Jesus when he was eight years old and began preaching at the age of thirteen. He was a pastor and music minister for many years before a series of encounters with "the REAL Jesus" drew him out of the organized church.

Chip is a prolific writer and teacher, authoring more than seventy articles and essays. These writings are freely distributed around the world via Watchman.Net, the website he founded in 1997.

Chip and his wife Karla have been married for nearly fourteen years. Their mandate is to encourage the saints "from house to house" with a simple, Christ-centered message. They travel and minister together at conferences, fellowship meetings, retreats, home groups, traditional churches, small group settings, and workshops. Chip and Karla live with their two children, Beth and Brittney, in North Carolina.

Other writings by Chip Brogden include:

All Things In Christ
Back To The Cross
The Crisis Of A Christless Christianity
Dismantling The Religious Machine
Escape From Churchianity
Fear No Man
The Gift Of Christ
The Hidden Wisdom
Is Jesus Enough?
Jesus Is Building His Church!
The Kingdom, The Power, And The Glory
The Law Of Life
The Ministry Of One-Anothering
The Need For Brokenness
One Thing Is Needed
The Prophetic Savant
The Remnant Principle
The Secret Of Spiritual Power
Trust In My Life
Victory Is A Man
The Way Of The Disciple
Ziklag: The Test Of Kings

All these essays, and many more, are available online for free. Just visit our website:

Watchman.Net

To contact the author, obtain additional copies
of this book, or request a complete listing of
books, tapes, and other resources available,
please write:

Watchman.Net
115 Pinewood Circle
Louisburg, N.C. 27549
U.S.A.

Or visit us online at:
<http://www.watchman.net>

